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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Medical School
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Joshua:

Thanks for your criticism of Salser. I am passing it on to him.

I enclose some reprints of my plea for better macromolecular models. I have had numerous private conversations with various plastics and atomic models companies on this question, and it seemed to me that none of them met all my requirements or seemed likely to. This was the reason for a public plea. It now appears that Robley Williams' BBC Study Committee for NIH may spark my proposed "Committee of Experts" and finance an initial study. I hope so.

I enclose also a reprint of the Tucson meeting on interstellar dust. Many of the results are closely relevant to your thoughts. You are quite right that there should be lots of C, N, O, H, polymers in the pre-stellar stage of dust-cloud condensation. I claim they should absorb and polarize, but I confess I had not thought of looking for rotation of the plane, as you suggest! Not sure we could detect it, but worth thinking about anyhow.

Yours,


John R. Platt

Saw your picture in Fortune. A good piece, too!

PLATT, J.R.